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Instructions for Provider Notification Regarding Streamlined Drug Coverage Materials for Health Care Professionals, a New Fact Sheet and Script for Recent Audio Conference

Note: This article was revised to contain web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. The web address on page 2 for the fact sheet was also changed. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Providers, physicians, and suppliers and their staff who prescribe medications for Medicare patients

Key Points

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed three new products as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Part D) campaign for health care professionals:

Consolidated List of Links

A consolidated list of links to resources for prescribers is located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/provider.asp> on the CMS web site.

At this web page, offices can get access to direct telephone numbers to a Medicare drug plan's coverage determination staff, as well as to obtain model forms that will help speed this process.

Educational information for Fee-For-Service (FFS) providers is always available through our Medicare Learning Network drug coverage page at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/23_DrugCoverage.asp on the CMS web site.

Transition Policy Fact Sheet

A new fact sheet regarding the new transition policy, as well as the exceptions and appeals process for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, is available for use in

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prescriber offices. This resource fact sheet provides ready links to tools that will streamline the prescribing process under the new coverage.

CMS continues to work with groups representing physicians, pharmacists, patients, and Part D plans to simplify and standardize the information that physicians need to provide to plans.

The fact sheet is at

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Part_D_Resource_Fact_sheet_revised.pdf on the CMS web site.

An Important Message for Providers Regarding Medicare Part D from CMS Administrator Dr. Mark McClellan

Dr. McClellan's message to providers describes the steps CMS is taking to implement the new Medicare prescription drug coverage. Dr. McClellan also discusses helpful resources for providers. Streaming video of this message is available at <http://media.cms.hhs.gov/cms/McClellanPartDProvider.wmv> on the CMS web site.

Phone Conference Training Session

A PowerPoint presentation and audio replay of a recent phone conference training session is available, entitled *"Working with Plan Formularies: Transition Supplies, Prior Authorization, Quantity Limits, Step Therapy, and Exceptions."*

This training session is geared towards guiding office staff through the exceptions process. These materials are located at <http://media.cms.hhs.gov/cms/partner03022006.wma> on the CMS web site.

Other Special Edition Articles

Other special edition articles regarding the prescription drug program include, but are not limited to, the following:

- SE0618 – "2006 Standard Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage: Understanding Costs to Beneficiaries," available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0618.pdf> on the CMS web site.
- SE0603 – "Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage: Essential Information and Resources for Prescribing Health Care Professionals – The Eleventh in the MLN Matters Series on the New Prescription Drug Plans," available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0603.pdf> on the CMS web site.
- SE0557 – "Clarification on Part D and Fee-for-Service (FFS) Providers," available at

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<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0557.pdf> on the CMS web site.

- SE0502 – “The Facts for Providers Regarding the Medicare Prescription Drug Program,” is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0502.pdf> on the CMS web site.

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